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Message Text

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ORIGIN SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 NSCE-00 SSO-00 /026 R

DRAFTED BY D/PW FASIEVERTS
APPROVED BY EA RHMILLER
EA/VN-MR. WENZEL
DOD/ISA- . SHIELDS
EA/LC-MR. HENDERSON
S/S:RKUCHEL
---------- 089159
O R 182203Z JUN 75
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE IMMEDIATE
USMISSION GENEVA PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY BANGKOK PRIORITY
INFO CINCPAC HONOLULU HI
JCRC CAMP SAMAE SAN THAILAND

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 143400

EXDIS- MILITARY ADDEES HANDLE AS SPECAT EXCLUSIVE

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: MOPS, CASC, VS
SUBJECT: UNHCR INQUIRIES TO PRG REGARDING CAPTIVE AMERICANS AND BODIES OF TWO MARINE GUARDS

REF: A)VIENTIANE 4327, B)STATE 130968, 130969

1. REFTEL REPORT MUCH APPRECIATED. VIENTIANE SHOULD THANK HAN FOR HIS EFFORTS ON THESE HUMANITARIAN MATTERS AND EXPRESS HOPE HE WILL CONTINUE TO PURSUE THEM DURING HIS STAY IN HANOI.

2. ON THE BAN ME THUOT GROUP (MISSIONARIES, STRUHARIK, SCARBOROUGH, ETC.) SUGGEST YOU GIVE HAN COPY OF JUNE 4 UPI ARTICLE FROM SAIGON BY ALAN DAWSON (REF B - BEING REPEATED) AS RECENT PUBLIC REPORT ON THIS GROUP. ARTICLE STATES PRISONERS HAVE BEEN PERMITTED TO WRITE LETTERS
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ALTHOUGH NONE HAVE BEEN RECEIVED BY THEIR FAMILIES.

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PERHAPS HAN COULD ASK ABOUT THIS AND OFFER TO TRANSMIT LETTERS.

3. IN VIEW POSSIBILITY OF FURTHER UNHCR FLIGHTS FROM VIETNAM, WE HOPE UNHCR WILL ALSO OFFER TO ASSIST IN RETURN OF THESE PRISONERS WHEN THEY ARE RELEASED. ANY EFFORTS HAN CAN MAKE ON THEIR BEHALF, AND FOR JAMES F. LEWIS, WILL BE APPRECIATED BY USG AND BY THE FAMILIES OF THE PRISONERS.

4. WE ARE ALSO MOST GRATEFUL FOR UNHCR EFFORTS ON THE MARINE BODIES. WORD THAT PRG OFFICIAL MAY BE FOUND WHO KNOWS WHERE REMAINS ARE BURIED IS MOST ENCOURAGING INDICATION WE HAVE HAD TO DATE ON THIS MATTER. WE WOULD OF COURSE WELCOME UNHCR ROLE IN RECOVERING THE BODIES AND FLYING THEM OUT OF SAIGON TO VIENTIANE.
ASSUME EMBASSIES VIENTIANE AND BANGKOK COULD WORK OUT DETAILS ON THIS, IN CONSULTATION WITH UDORN AND SAMAE SAN.

5. SUGGEST CARLIN, RMRC, GENEVA, EXPRESS USG APPRECIATION ALSO TO RIZVI AND CASELLA OF UNHCR STAFF FOR THEIR HELP ON THESE MATTERS, AND ASSURE THEM WE ARE HOLDING ALL DETAILS IN STRICT CONFIDENCE.

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To: VIENTIANE BANGKOK
Type: TE
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